

Program Information Platform for Ecosystem Restoration (PIPER) FPL and SEP Application System User Manual

GULF COAST ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION COUNCIL

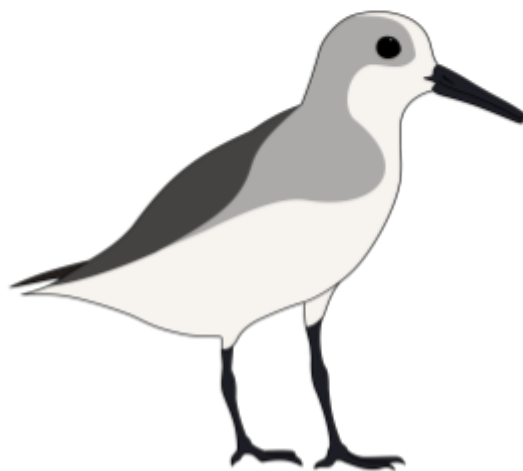


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Creating an Application

Step 1: Select the Applications tab at the top of the webpage. This will present you with two options: “View Applications” and “Create Application”. Select “Create Application” to begin.

Step 2: You will then be asked if the application is for an FPL or a SEP funded project/program. Select the appropriate option and press Save.

Step 3: If this is an FPL application you will be presented with the option to select an existing proposal. Select the approved FPL proposal you are advancing as an application and then select “Add to Application”. If this is an SEP application you will be asked to enter a title for your project/program. Enter the title and then hit save.

In either case, you will then be brought to the Application Editor, which includes a series of tabs, all of which will be explained in further detail in designated sections of this user manual. If this is an FPL application these tabs will be prepopulated with information submitted in your selected proposal. You may save your progress by clicking the green save button at the bottom of **each** page to enable you to return to your application if need be. You can **return to an incomplete application** by selecting “View Applications” under the Applications tab on the top of the webpage. Select the pencil icon next to the application you want to edit, allowing you to resume application creation.

For additional instructions on populating data fields for an FPL application please [proceed to page 3](#). For instructions on populating an SEP application, please [proceed to page 6](#).

General Information

FPL Application General Information Tab

The screenshot shows the 'General' tab of the FPL Application form. It includes a title field (1), an abstract text area (2) with a character count of 529 of 1500 remaining, and several dropdown menus for Category (3), Activity Type (4), and Program (5). There are also fields for Co-sponsoring Agency(ies) (6), a checkbox for 'Is this a construction project?' (7), and a Project Duration (years) field (8). A Requested Funding Amount field (9) is present. The RESTORE Act Priority Criteria section (10) lists three options, with the first one selected. A Priority Criteria Justification text area (11) contains a detailed description of the project, with a character count of 1168 of 2000 remaining. A 'Save' button is located at the bottom right.

1. Title: Create a title for your application using 100 characters or less (including spaces).**

2. Abstract: In 1500 characters or less, summarize the application project or program, including the following information:

- description of activity
- anticipated environmental benefits

** Indicates information that will be pre-populated in PIPER for an FPL application from submitted FPL proposals. This information may need to be updated at the application stage.

- location
- total cost (and amount of Council funding being requested, if different than the total cost)
- timeline
- partners
- other information that might be needed to provide the reader with an overview of the activity

This section should be written for the general public. The language provided here may be used verbatim for fact sheets or other public facing documents.

Use the light grey square in the bottom right-hand corner of the text box to pull down and expand to desired size for better visibility and ease of writing.**

3. Category: Indicate which category your application falls in. The Council will consider FPL 3 applications from members that address planning or implementation phases, or both, of projects or programs. Examples of which activities are conducted in the Planning and Implementation phases are:

Planning – FPL submissions may include: planning and development of ecosystem restoration projects and programs; cost estimates; feasibility analysis; engineering and design; environmental compliance and permitting; scientific elements, including evaluation and establishment of monitoring requirements and methods to report outcomes and impacts; and public engagement.

Implementation – FPL submissions may include: construction; public outreach and education; and measurement, evaluation, and reporting of outcomes and impacts of restoration activities.

4. Activity Type: Indicate whether the application is for an individual project or for a multi-activity program by selecting “Project” or “Program” from the drop down menu.**

Project: A single ecosystem restoration and/or conservation activity that cannot be separated into stand-alone sub-activities. A project may be “scalable,” meaning that its scope, size, and/or cost can be expanded or reduced as needed and appropriate. A project can be separated into a “planning” or “implementation” phase or can include both. One or more members can conduct a project. For example, a single project might restore marsh in a specific geographic location. Another example of a project might be the planning, engineering, and design required to advance a marsh restoration proposal to a construction-ready status.

Program: A suite of intrinsically-linked restoration and/or conservation activities that must be implemented together in order to achieve the desired outcome. A program should generally be covered by one unified Council environmental compliance review and have a common set of performance measures to effectively assess and measure outcomes. A program’s sub-activities may be related in terms of geography, environmental stressors, resources, restoration and/or protection activities, and more. A program can be separated into a “planning” or “implementation” phase or can include both. One or more members can conduct a program. For example, a single program might be a Gulf-wide environmental monitoring effort.

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5. Program: If the activity type selected is “program”, select the appropriate pre-populated FPL program from the drop-down list. If the activity type selected is “project”, skip this field. **Note:** If the appropriate program does not appear in the drop-down list, please contact the PIPER helpdesk.**

6. Co-Sponsoring Agencies: Select all co-sponsoring agencies for this application. If there are none, this field may be left blank.**

7. Check the box if the application is a construction project.

8. Project Duration (in years): Enter requested duration of the project/program award (i.e. number of years to complete the project/program). In your request, include time required for appropriate permitting, pre-construction and post-construction monitoring (if applicable).**

9. Requested Funding: Enter the amount of funding you are requesting for your project/program. Please align this amount with the funding amount requested for this application in GrantSolutions.**

10. RESTORE Act Priority Criteria: Activities must meet at least one of the four RESTORE Act Priority Criteria (listed below). For each criteria selected you will need to provide a justification for your selection in the following field.**

11. Priority Criteria Justification: Provide justification for how the activity meets the RESTORE Act Priority Criteria selected in the previous field, using a maximum of 2000 characters, including spaces.**

The Priority Criteria and the ways in which they should be addressed are listed below:

(I) Greatest Contribution: Projects that are projected to make the greatest contribution to restoring and protecting the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region, without regard to geographic location within the Gulf Coast region. If the activity is designed to address Criterion I: greatest contribution to restoring and protecting natural resources in the Gulf, the application should include a discussion of relevant factors (e.g., scale, duration, and sustainability).

(II) Large-Scale: Large-scale projects and programs that are projected to substantially contribute to restoring and protecting the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast ecosystem. If an activity is designed to address Criterion II: large-scale projects and programs, the application should include an explanation of how the activity would provide large-scale environmental benefits within the appropriate Gulf-wide, regional, or watershed context, or in the context of the expected benefits of the project or program relative to the restoration needs in the given coastal area.

(III) Existing Gulf Coast State comprehensive plans: Projects contained in existing Gulf Coast State comprehensive plans for the restoration and protection of natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region. If an activity is designed primarily to address Criterion III, the application should reference the existing Gulf Coast State comprehensive plan containing the activity.

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(IV) Restore long-term resiliency of most impacted natural resources: Projects that restore long-term resiliency of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands most impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. If an activity is designed to primarily address Criterion IV: restore long-term resiliency of natural resources most impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the application should include a discussion of relevant factors (e.g., duration, sustainability, and how the proposal would improve an area's capacity to adapt to short- and long-term changes). The application should also discuss how the project or program addresses natural resources most impacted by the spill.

Use the green save button at the bottom of the page to **save your progress and continue**.

If a required field is left empty, or if a field is occupied incorrectly, a red text will appear under the problem fields after clicking the green save button at the bottom of the page

Once you complete and save the General tab, you can navigate to any of the other tabs in the order that you wish.

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SEP Application General Information Tab

The screenshot shows the 'General' tab of the SEP Application form. It includes fields for Title, Abstract, Category, Activity Type, Program, Is this a construction project?, Project Duration (years), Requested Funding Amount, and Primary Eligible Activity. A 'Save' button is at the bottom right.

1. Title: Bay Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Restoration and Monitoring Program

2. Abstract: The Gulf State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (GSDCNR) will complete a submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) restoration program in Bliss Bay, upper Serene Bay, and lower Happy River Delta; and an SAV comprehensive mapping and monitoring program for coastal Gulf State. These programs will speed the recovery of areas that have known losses of SAV beds, either by prop scarring or natural disasters, and provide GSDCNR with vital SAV status and trends data, allowing further investigation to the factors that influence historic SAV loss as well as observed fluctuations in SAV coverage. Additionally, mapping will provide critical SAV extent and species composition data for resource managers and regulatory agencies, better informing regulatory decisions, future

3. Category: Implementation

4. Activity Type: Program

5. Program: Sample Program

6. Is this a construction project? ☐ Yes

7. Project Duration (years): 3

8. Requested Funding Amount: 500000

9. Primary Eligible Activity: Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region.

1. Title: Create a title for your application using 100 characters or less (including spaces).

2. Project Abstract: In 1500 characters or less, summarize the application project or program, including the following information:

- description of activity
- anticipated environmental benefits
- location
- total cost (and amount of Council funding being requested, if different than the total cost)
- timeline
- partners
- other information that might be needed to provide the reader with an overview of the activity

This section should be written for the general public. The language provided here may be used verbatim for fact sheets or other public facing documents.

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3. Category: Indicate which category your application falls in. The Council will consider applications from members that address planning or implementation phases, or both, of projects or programs. Examples of which activities are conducted in the Planning and Implementation phases are:

Planning – Planning activities may include: planning and development of ecosystem restoration projects and programs; cost estimates; feasibility analysis; engineering and design; environmental compliance and permitting; scientific elements, including evaluation and establishment of monitoring requirements and methods to report outcomes and impacts; and public engagement.

Implementation – Implementation activities may include: construction; public outreach and education; and measurement, evaluation, and reporting of outcomes and impacts of restoration activities.

4. Activity Type: Indicate whether the application is for an individual project or for a multi-activity program by selecting “Project” or “Program” from the drop down menu.

Project: A single ecosystem restoration and/or conservation activity that cannot be separated into stand-alone sub-activities. A project may be “scalable,” meaning that its scope, size, and/or cost can be expanded or reduced as needed and appropriate. A project can be separated into a “planning” or “implementation” phase or can include both. One or more members can conduct a project. For example, a single project might restore marsh in a specific geographic location. Another example of a project might be the planning, engineering, and design required to advance a marsh restoration proposal to a construction-ready status.

Program: A suite of intrinsically-linked restoration and/or conservation activities that must be implemented together in order to achieve the desired outcome. A program should generally be covered by one unified Council environmental compliance review and have a common set of performance measures to effectively assess and measure outcomes. A program’s sub-activities may be related in terms of geography, environmental stressors, resources, restoration and/or protection activities, and more. A program can be separated into a “planning” or “implementation” phase or can include both. One or more members can conduct a program. For example, a single program might be a Gulf-wide environmental monitoring effort

5. Program: If the activity type selected is “program”, select the appropriate pre-populated program from the drop-down list. If the activity type selected is “project”, skip this field. **Note: If the appropriate program does not appear in the drop-down list, please contact the PIPER helpdesk.**

6. Check the box if the application is a construction project. **Note: this box will need to be selected if you intend to include “Contingency” funding in your budget.**

7. Project Duration (in years): Enter requested duration of the project/program award (i.e. number of years to complete the project/program). In your estimate, include time required for appropriate permitting, pre-construction and post-construction monitoring (if applicable).

8. Requested Funding Amount: Enter the amount of funding you are requesting for your project/program

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9. Primary Eligible Activity: The RESTORE Act contains eleven categories of activities eligible for funding. For each project or program in a SEP, the State must identify one of the below eleven eligible activities as the primary purpose of the project or program. Please reference the [2016 State Expenditure Plan Guidelines](#) for additional information.

1. Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region.
2. Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, and natural resources.
3. Implementation of a federally-approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring.
4. Workforce development and job creation.
5. Improvements to or on State parks located in coastal areas affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.
6. Infrastructure projects benefiting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure.
7. Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure.
8. Planning assistance.
9. Administrative costs of complying with the Act.
10. Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast region, including recreational fishing.
11. Promotion of the consumption of seafood harvested from the Gulf Coast region.

Note: The primary eligible activity identified in your application must match the activity identified in your [State Expenditure Plan](#).

Use the green save button at the bottom of the page to **save your progress and continue**.

If a required field is left empty, or if a field is occupied incorrectly, a red text will appear under the problem fields after clicking the green save button at the bottom of the page

Once you complete and save the General tab, you can navigate to any of the other tabs in the order that you wish.

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Goals Information

The screenshot shows the 'Goals' tab of a web application. The tab is highlighted in blue. The form contains several fields:

- Project Start Date:** 1/2030
- Project End Date:** 1/2033
- Primary Comprehensive Plan Goal:** Restore and Conserve Habitat
- Primary Comprehensive Plan Objective:** Restore, Enhance, and Protect Habitats
- Secondary Comprehensive Plan Goals:** Restore Water Quality and Quantity, Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources
- Secondary Comprehensive Plan Objectives:** Restore, Improve, and Protect Water Resources, Protect and Restore Living Coastal and Marine Resources
- Planning Framework Restoration Technique(s):** Improve science-based decision-making processes: Comprehensive planning, Protect and conserve coastal, estuarine, and riparian habitats: Habitat management and stewardship

A green 'Save' button is located at the bottom right of the form.

Your Comprehensive Plan Goals indicate which RESTORE Council goals you intend to address through your activity. Your Comprehensive Plan Objectives are more specific actions that will lead to the achievement of the overall goal. The data fields populated on this tab are the same for both FPL and SEP applications.

1&2. Date: Select the anticipated start and end dates for your project/program.

3&4. Primary: Select one primary goal and one primary objective for your application. Use the drop-down menus to select the **Primary Comprehensive Plan Goal** and the **Primary Comprehensive Plan Objective** that best describes your application.**

The Comprehensive Plan Goals are listed below. The first four are applicable to the Council Selected Restoration Component (the fifth goal is applicable to the Spill Impact Component). Applications must identify which goal(s) the activity will address. An application sponsor must select a single primary goal. One or more secondary goals may be identified, but this is not required. Metrics and quantifiable measures of success will need to be identified for each Comprehensive Plan goal associated with your project or program (including any secondary goals).

Goal 1: Restore and Conserve Habitat - Restore and conserve the health, diversity, and resilience of key coastal, estuarine and marine habitats;

Goal 2: Restore Water Quality and Quantity - Restore and protect the water quality and quantity of the Gulf Coast region's fresh, estuarine and marine waters;

Goal 3: Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources - Restore and protect healthy, diverse, and sustainable living coastal and marine resources;

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Goal 4: Enhance Community Resilience - Build upon and sustain communities with capacity to adapt to short- and long-term changes; and

Goal 5: Restore and Revitalize the Gulf Economy - Enhance the sustainability and resiliency of the Gulf economy.

The Comprehensive Plan Objectives are listed below. An application sponsor must select a single primary objective. One or more secondary objectives may be identified, but this is not required.

Objective 1: Restore, Enhance and Protect Habitats - Restore, enhance, and protect the extent, functionality, resiliency and sustainability of coastal, freshwater, estuarine, wildlife and marine habitats. These include barrier islands, beaches, dunes, coastal wetlands, coastal forests, pine savannas, coastal prairies, submerged aquatic vegetation, oyster reefs, and shallow and deepwater corals.

Objective 2: Restore, Improve and Protect Water Resources - Restore, improve and protect the Gulf Coast region's fresh, estuarine and marine water resources by reducing or treating nutrient and pollutant loading, and improving the management of freshwater flows, discharges to, and withdrawals from critical systems.

Objective 3: Protect and Restore Living Coastal and Marine Resources - Restore and protect healthy, diverse and sustainable living coastal and marine resources including finfish, shellfish, birds, mammals, reptiles, coral and deep benthic communities.

Objective 4: Restore and Enhance Natural Processes and Shorelines - Restore and enhance ecosystem resilience, sustainability, and natural defenses through the restoration of natural coastal, estuarine and riverine processes, and/or the restoration of natural shorelines.

Objective 5: Promote Community Resilience - Build and sustain Gulf Coast communities' capacity to adapt to short- and long-term natural and man-made hazards, particularly increased flood risks associated with sea-level rise and environmental stressors. Promote ecosystem restoration that enhances community resilience through the re-establishment of nonstructural natural buffers against storms and flooding.

Objective 6: Promote Natural Resource Stewardship and Environmental Education - Promote and enhance natural resource stewardship efforts that include formal and informal educational opportunities, professional development and training, communication and other actions for all ages.

Objective 7: Improve Science-Based Decision-Making Processes - Improve science based decision-making processes used by the Council.

5&6. Secondary: If there are additional goals and objectives applicable to your application, use the fields titled "**Secondary Comprehensive Plan Goals**" and "**Secondary Comprehensive Plan Objectives**" to add any secondary goals and objectives your activity will address. Using the drop-down menus, you can add multiple secondary goals and objectives. If your activity does not address additional goals or objectives, skip these fields.

** Indicates information that will be pre-populated in PIPER for an FPL application from submitted FPL proposals. This information may need to be updated at the application stage.

Note: Metrics and quantifiable targets will need to be identified for each Comprehensive Plan Goal associated with a project or program. This includes primary and secondary goals.

7. Planning Framework Restoration Technique(s): Use the drop-down menu to select the appropriate Planning Framework technique(s) for your activity. Multiple techniques may be selected. Please reference the [Additional Metric Guidance](#) for more information, and see the [2019 Planning Framework](#) for descriptions of Council restoration techniques. **

Use the green save button at the bottom of the page to **save your progress and continue**.

Location Information

The screenshot shows a web form with a tabbed interface. The 'Location' tab is active. The form contains the following fields:

- Location:** A text input field containing the text: "SAV restoration activities will take place in areas of active and historical presence of SAVs within Bliss Bay. SAV extent and species composition". A character count "130 of 350 characters remaining" is shown to the right. A red circle with the number 1 is next to this field.
- Watershed(s):** A dropdown menu showing "Atlantic-Gulf Region(Mobile-Tombigbee) - Mobile Bay-Tombigbee(Mobile Bay) : 3160205 *". A red circle with the number 2 is next to this field.
- State(s):** A dropdown menu showing "Alabama *". A red circle with the number 3 is next to this field.
- County/Parish(es):** A dropdown menu showing "Baldwin * AL Mobile *". A red circle with the number 4 is next to this field.
- Congressional District(s):** A dropdown menu showing "AL 1 *". A red circle with the number 5 is next to this field.

A green "Save" button is located at the bottom right of the form.

1. Location: Describe the location for the activity in 350 characters or less.**

2. HUC8 Watershed(s): Use the drop-down menu to select all HUC8 Watersheds your activity involves.**

3. State(s): Use the drop-down menu to select the state(s) in which your activity will take place.**

4. County/Parish(es): Use the drop-down menu to select the county/parish(es) in which your activity will take place.**

5. Congressional District(s): Use the drop-down menu to select the congressional district(s) in which your activity will take place.**

Use the green save button at the bottom of the page to **save your progress and continue**.

** Indicates information that will be pre-populated in PIPER for an FPL application from submitted FPL proposals. This information may need to be updated at the application stage.

Project Narrative Information

Note: Information entered below will be automatically saved if you navigate upward or downward in this tab. You can also choose to save your entries by selecting either of the green save buttons on the top right and bottom right of each page.

Introduction

GeneralGoalsLocationNarrativeEnvironmentalUploadsSubmission

Note: Information entered below will be automatically saved if you navigate forward or backwards in the application. You can also choose to save your entries by selecting "Save" below.

IntroductionMethodsEnvironmental BenefitsMetricsRiskPublic EngagementLeveragingEnvironmental ComplianceFederally-Recognized TribesBibliography

Introduction and Overview ⓘ

The Bliss Bay Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Restoration and Monitoring Project will protect and restore SAV resources in coastal Gulf State. This project is part of a larger effort being undertaken in Gulf State and around the Gulf to protect and restore critically important SAV resources. Based on available data and existing literature, the Gulf of Mexico and adjoining estuaries have experienced widespread SAV losses compared to historical acreages. While improvements in water quality in recent decades have allowed SAVs to rebound in certain areas, restoration and protection efforts are still needed.

In Bliss Bay, SAV mapping efforts were conducted in 1980, 1987, 1994, 2001, 2008 and 2009, and 2015 (Vittor and Assoc., 2004 & 2009). Additionally, the Bliss Bay NEP conducted a historical analysis of SAV coverage in Bliss Bay based on 1940's imagery and current mapping data (Vittor and Assoc., 2005). These studies and mapping efforts show wide scale losses in SAV coverage in Bliss Bay, especially along the eastern and western shorelines of Bliss Bay. However, the data also indicates large fluctuations in SAV coverage along upper Bliss Bay over relatively short time spans. Further, an increase in sea grass coverage in lower Serene Bay over the last 20 years has been noted through interpretation of recent imagery and SAV mapping data.

The Serene Bay Sea Grass Protection and Restoration Project will include annual maintenance and replacement of seagrass protection zone signage, the installation of bird stakes to restore prop scars, the sowing of Vallisneria sp. seeds in upper Serene Bay, and the production and distribution of educational materials to raise awareness of SAV resources in the lower Serene Bay region. The Lower Happy River Delta SAV Restoration Project will consist of a 5-year effort to restore Vallisneria sp. beds in

7093 of 9500 characters remaining

Save Introduction

Introduction and Overview:** Fully describe the project or program (in 9500 characters or less), including the following information: description of the activity including whether it involves planning and/or implementation, anticipated environmental benefits, environmental stressor(s) being addressed, location, total cost (and amount of Council funding being applied for, if different than total cost), timeline, partners, and other information that might be needed to provide the reader with a full understanding of the activity. This section may briefly discuss and/or reference the specific considerations that will be discussed in other sections of the application.

Describe how the activity:

- Will be carried out in the Gulf Coast Region,

** Indicates information that will be pre-populated in PIPER for an FPL application from submitted FPL proposals. This information may need to be updated at the application stage.

- Addresses one or more of the Council's Goals and Objectives, and
- Advances the commitments set forth in the 2016 Comprehensive Plan update.

The primary Comprehensive Plan goal and objective must be identified. If you are applying for FPL funding describe how the activity aligns with the FPL 3 Planning Framework.

A primary purpose of this section is to make a clear case for how the project or program meets the applicable Comprehensive Plan goal(s) and objective(s).

Use the light grey square in the bottom right-hand corner of the text box to pull down and expand to desired size for better visibility and ease of writing.

Methods

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Note: Information entered below will be automatically saved if you navigate forward or backwards in the application. You can also choose to save your entries by selecting "Save" below.

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Methods

Upper Bliss Bay and the Lower Happy River Delta SAV Restoration Project: This project will involve the gathering of Vallisneria seeds from existing beds in the Upper Bliss Bay and the lower Happy River Delta and then sowing these seeds in plots in areas which historically had Vallisneria but which have not recovered since the tropical storms and droughts of 2008-2010. Seeds may also be planted in a mesocosm setting and grown out to utilize as transplant plugs. Plots will be marked by temporary stakes and plot corners mapped using GPS. During monitoring, DISL will document the presence/absence of Vallisneria within each plot, including percent cover, document any additional species which may recruit naturally (species composition) as well as documenting any spread of Vallisneria outside the plot boundaries (aerial extent). DISL will also replace plot stakes as needed and add more plots each project year as seeds and/or transplant plugs become available.

Serene Bay Sea Grass Protection and Restoration Project: This will include annual maintenance and replacement of seagrass protection zone signage, monitoring of prop scars in the region, and installation of new bird stakes in prop scars as they are identified. Vallisneria seeds will also be sown in an area of upper Serene Bay using the same methods as mentioned above.

2152 of 3500 characters remaining

Methods:** Describe the methods to be used in the project or program, and the reasons that these methods were selected. All methods should be justified using best available science (provide citations); methods may also be justified by other reasons (e.g., cost-effectiveness, technical feasibility). For example, a marsh restoration project might utilize a particular source or type of sediment based on engineering, ecological, and/or cost-effectiveness issues. Activities that do not involve construction might also involve a particular method. For example, a planning project might use information generated by a specific forecasting model and/or field data collection to inform engineering and design plans. Such methodologies should be described.

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The character limit is 9500, including spaces.

Use the light grey square in the bottom right-hand corner of the text box to pull down and expand to desired size for better visibility and ease of writing.

Environmental Benefits

General Goals Location **Narrative** Environmental Uploads Submission

Note: Information entered below will be automatically saved if you navigate forward or backwards in the application. You can also choose to save your entries by selecting "Save" below.

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Environmental Benefits ⓘ

Save Environmental Benefits

SAV restoration and protection will provide additional critical nursery habitats for many commercially and recreationally finfish and shellfish species and their prey items. SAV also serves to improve water clarity by reducing sediment re-suspension. Healthy SAV beds also provide recreational fishing and snorkeling opportunities, potentially improving the local economy. While improvements in water quality in recent decades have allowed SAVs to rebound in certain areas, restoration and protection efforts are still needed. SAV mapping will acquire vital SAV status and trends data, allowing further investigation to the factors that influence historic SAV loss as well as observed fluctuations in SAV coverage. Additionally, mapping will provide critical SAV extent and species composition data for resource managers and regulatory agencies, better informing regulatory decisions, future restoration efforts and the need for additional long-term SAV monitoring, protection, and restoration.

While this proposal identifies projects specific to Gulf State, every Gulf state faces loss of SAV habitat. The proposed effort could serve as a pilot for a coordinated, Gulfwide effort to monitor and restore SAV resources.

1274 of 2500 characters remaining

Save Environmental Benefits

Environmental benefits:** In addition to the discussion of anticipated environmental benefits in the Introduction and Overview section, provide a detailed description of anticipated environmental benefits (in 5000 characters or less). Environmental benefits can be achieved through multiple activities that could be considered for funding (e.g., planning, implementation, science, education, improved resilience). Such benefits can be quantitative (e.g., acres restored or conserved, amount of nutrients or other pollutant reductions) and/or qualitative (e.g., increased community resilience, increased public stewardship of natural resources). Such benefits must be discussed in reference to one or more underlying environmental stressors identified by best available science and/or an applicable ecosystem restoration plan(s). Some applications such as those involving natural resource stewardship and improving science-based decision-making may not specifically address an underlying environmental stressor. Discuss the rationale for the anticipated duration/sustainability of the environmental benefits that would accrue from the activity (consistent with the following discussion of risks and uncertainties). If the activity involves only planning, engineering and design, and/or permitting (i.e., no construction), this section should make it clear that the actual environmental benefits would only accrue if implementation funding is secured in the future.

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Metrics

Identify metrics for evaluating project and program objectives, and describe how the project or program's success will be evaluated over time. The metrics identified for evaluating project/program objectives should align with the Comprehensive Plan goal(s) that the project or program has identified, as well as any anticipated quantifiable environmental benefits. A list of metrics available for selection in PIPER is available [here](#).

Note: Metrics identified at the proposal stage have been pre-populated and may need to be updated at the application stage. If an appropriate metric for this activity is not pre-populated or available in the drop-down list below, please contact Brie Bernik on Council staff (brie.bernik@restorethegulf.gov).

For each metric, you should identify a Baseline, Current and Target value. In general, the Baseline and Current values for a metric will be "0" at the application stage, however, this value could be greater than "0" if the project/program is building off of another activity tracking the same metric.

The Council acknowledges that additional planning, permitting, or other factors may result in changes to target outcomes for metrics. It is thus understood that targets identified for metrics in applications are approximate and may be subject to change. Material revisions to targeted outcomes may require an FPL amendment (e.g., changes to project scope).

If the target for a metric added at the application stage has not yet been identified, such as if the number of environmental compliance documents to be developed is unknown, please indicate this by entering a target value of "0.99".

For each metric, provide a short narrative describing how the metric identified will be used to evaluate the project or program's success over time (Character limit for each narrative: 1500).

Note: All metrics identified in an application should match the metrics and corresponding parameters identified in the project/program's Observational Data Plan. See [here](#) for additional guidance on developing Observational Data Plans for project/program applications.

** Indicates information that will be pre-populated in PIPER for an FPL application from submitted FPL proposals. This information may need to be updated at the application stage.

General
Goals
Location
Narrative
Environmental
Uploads
Submission

Note: Information entered below will be automatically saved if you navigate forward or backwards in the application. You can also choose to save your entries by selecting "Save" below.

Introduction
Methods
Environmental Benefits
Metrics
Risk
Public Engagement
Leveraging
Environmental Compliance
Federally-Recognized Tribes
Bibliography

Metrics ⓘ
Note: Changes for this tab must be saved manually.
Additional Metrics

+ Add Metric
1

COI104 : Economic benefits - # local contracts : Capacity, Outreach, Incentives

Edit
Delete

Metric Target: 3 Metric Baseline: 0 Metric Current: 0
Description: FISL anticipates executing two professional service agreements over the project life to conduct the aerial survey and mapping tasks outlined in this project.

HR007 : Marine habitat restoration - Acres of SAV restored : Habitat Restoration

Edit
Delete

Metric Target: 1000 Metric Baseline: 0 Metric Current: 0
Description: This metric most closely relates to the project goals of restoring and enhancing SAV beds in coastal Gulf State. The targeted outcome of this metric is to significantly increase acreage of SAV beds in Serene Bay, lower Happy River Delta, and upper Bliss Bay. The number of acres and linear feet (in Bliss Bay) restored will be provided upon completion of the project.

1. Add Metric: Select "+Add Metric" and a small window will appear. Use the drop-down menu to select an applicable metric for your application. Metrics are added one at a time.

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The screenshot shows a web form titled "Add Metric" with a close button (X) in the top right corner. The form contains the following fields:

- 2** Metrics: A dropdown menu showing "C001 : Conservation easements - Acres protected under easement : Habitat Conservation".
- 3** Target: A text input field.
- 4** Baseline: A text input field.
- 5** Current: A text input field.
- 6** Narrative: A large text area with a character count "1500 of 1500 characters remaining" at the bottom right.

At the bottom right of the form are two buttons: "Close" (grey) and "Save changes" (green).

2. Metrics:** Identify metrics for evaluating project and program objectives, and describe how the project or program’s success will be evaluated over time. The metrics identified for evaluating the project/program objectives should align with the Comprehensive Plan goal(s) that the project or program has identified, as well as any anticipated quantifiable environmental benefits.

3. Target:** Enter the estimated numerical target outcome for this metric (e.g., 250). The Council acknowledges that additional planning, permitting, or other factors may result in changes to target outcomes for metrics.

4. Baseline: Enter the numerical baseline from which your target number will build from for this metric.

5. Current: Enter the current numerical status for this metric (this number will be updated through annual reports).

6. Narrative:** Describe how the metric identified will be used to evaluate the project or program’s success over time. The character limit is 1500, including spaces.

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Use the light grey square in the bottom right-hand corner of the text box to pull down and expand to desired size for better visibility and ease of writing.

Click **Save Changes**

Repeat the above process for adding metrics until you have added all applicable metrics for your application. You can edit or delete any metric after it has been added using the blue and red buttons associated with each added metric.

Risk

The screenshot shows the 'Risk' section of a web application. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs: General, Goals, Location, Narrative (selected), Environmental, Uploads, and Submission. Below the navigation bar, a note states: 'Note: Information entered below will be automatically saved if you navigate forward or backwards in the application. You can also choose to save your entries by selecting "Save" below.' On the left side, there is a sidebar menu with the following items: Introduction, Methods, Environmental Benefits, Metrics, Risk (highlighted in blue), Public Engagement, Leveraging, Environmental Compliance, Federally-Recognized Tribes, and Bibliography. The main content area is titled 'Risk and Uncertainties' with a small icon. It contains a text box with the following text: 'GSDCNR and its project partners have successfully implemented a seagrass protection and restoration project in lower Serene Bay. The proposed lower Serene Bay project will build upon these efforts. Additionally, Vallisneria seed collection and sowing projects have been successful in other locations (see "Research" at: <https://www.disl.org/about/faculty/kheck>). In 2011, GSDCNR funded a pilot Vallisneria seed collection project conducted by the FISL, which was successful at germinating collected seeds in a controlled setting. Additionally, as a result of the study conducted by FISL, it appears that there is a viable readily available seed source in the Vallisneria beds of upper Bliss Bay. Finally, GSDCNR and BBNEP have successfully completed SAV mapping projects in 2001, 2008/2009, and 2015. Based on these factors, the uncertainties and risks associated with this project are relatively low, and contingencies are in place. Transplanting a limited number of plugs grown at the lab from healthy Vallisneria beds may be considered in the unlikely event collected seeds are not viable. The aerial survey timeframe factors inclement weather and allows time to collect necessary data around unfavorable sampling conditions.' To the right of the text box is a green 'Save Risk' button. At the bottom right of the text box, it says '3763 of 5000 characters remaining'. Below the text box is another green 'Save Risk' button.

Risk and Uncertainties:** Using best available science, summarize risks and uncertainties associated with the activity, along with proposed measures to mitigate such risks and uncertainties. In general, risks and uncertainties should be considered in both the near- and long-term, and with respect to the anticipated lifespan of the proposed project/program. This section may provide perspective on such risks and uncertainties relative to the potential benefits of the project or program. For example, a long-term risk to the project/program posed by sea level rise might be offset by the potential near- and mid-term environmental benefits of the activity. Conversely, a potential benefit to the project/program might be the mitigation of future risks associated with sea level rise, subsidence, and/or storms.

The application should discuss whether the project or program is vulnerable to applicable climate risks under varying future scenarios, including but not limited to sea level rise, alterations in rainfall patterns, and/or potential increases in hurricane intensity. Consider how such risks might affect the benefits and

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duration of the project or program. The application should describe any design or other measures taken to mitigate these risks.

Other applicable risks and uncertainties might include questions and unknowns relating to construction feasibility, unanticipated cost increases, land rights, regulatory review, project timing, public opposition, and/or the potential for unanticipated adverse environmental and/or socio-economic impacts. Any relevant scientific uncertainties and/or data gaps should also be discussed (including the appropriate citations). Proposed measures to mitigate risks should be discussed. For applications that involve only planning (no construction), this section should discuss how the foregoing risks and uncertainties would be addressed in the planning process.

The character limit is 9500, including spaces.

Use the light grey square in the bottom right-hand corner of the text box to pull down and expand to desired size for better visibility and ease of writing.

Collaboration/Public Engagement

General

Goals

Location

Narrative

Environmental

Uploads

Submission

Note: Information entered below will be automatically saved if you navigate forward or backwards in the application. You can also choose to save your entries by selecting "Save" below.

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Collaboration ⓘ

Save Engagement & Collaboration

Several federal, state, academic, and NGO partners have actively pursued SAV restoration and monitoring in Coastal Gulf State. FNC, FISL, and the City of Peach Beach have been actively involved in seagrass restoration and protection in lower Serene Bay.

745 of 1000 characters remaining

Public Engagement, Outreach, and Education ⓘ

Save Engagement & Collaboration

Educational signage describing the importance of SAV will be placed and/or maintained at strategic locations around the adjacent waterways, including boat launches and marinas in the area. A seagrass protection educational brochure previously developed by The Bliss Bay Conservancy (TBBC), FISL, and the City of Peach Beach will also be updated and re-printed annually for distribution to tourists and residents at varying venues around the City.

2052 of 2500 characters remaining

The 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update outlines the Council's commitment to engagement, inclusion, and transparency with all stakeholders, including under-represented communities and federally recognized Tribes. Program applications should describe public engagement activities and stakeholder input that

** Indicates information that will be pre-populated in PIPER for an FPL application from submitted FPL proposals. This information may need to be updated at the application stage.

20

was considered in the selection of potential activities within the program. Grant applications should also provide information regarding any additional considerations of stakeholder engagement, education activities, or outreach that took place between proposal submission and the request for disbursement of funds for the project. There should be communication with the Director of External Affairs as public engagement events are developed to allow a broad reach to potential attendees. Additionally, a brief summary of technical stakeholder meetings should be provided to the Director of External Affairs to meet the Council's commitment to transparency.

Collaboration:** As applicable, describe how collaboration was used to identify, develop, and/or refine the project/program. If applicable, the application should also include a description of the partnerships that will be used to advance the project/program. The character limit is 1000, including spaces.

Public Engagement, Outreach, and Education:** Applications should describe public engagement activities and stakeholder input that were considered in the selection of activities. The character limit is 2500, including spaces.

Use the light grey square in the bottom right-hand corner of the text box to pull down and expand to desired size for better visibility and ease of writing.

Leveraging

The screenshot shows a web-based application interface with a top navigation bar containing tabs: General, Goals, Location, Narrative (selected), Environmental, Uploads, and Submission. Below the navigation bar, a note states: "Note: Information entered below will be automatically saved if you navigate forward or backwards in the application. You can also choose to save your entries by selecting 'Save' below." On the left is a vertical sidebar with menu items: Introduction, Methods, Environmental Benefits, Metrics, Risk, Public Engagement, Leveraging (highlighted in blue), Environmental Compliance, Federally-Recognized Tribes, and Bibliography. The main content area is titled "Leveraging" with a sub-note: "Note: Changes for this tab must be saved manually." It displays a table with one entry. The entry fields are: Funds: \$100,000, Source: NOAA, Type: Bldg on Others, Source Type: Other Federal, and Status: Proposed. The Description field contains the text: "Leveraged NOAA funds will be used to develop a pilot application to demonstrate how the AL SAV Restoration and Monitoring project can be scaled to the entire Gulf Region. This is a NOAA CMAP deliverable." To the right of the table entry are three buttons: a green "+ Add Leveraging" button at the top, an orange "Edit" button in the middle, and a red "Delete" button at the bottom. Two orange callout circles with numbers "1" and "8" are present; circle "1" points to the "+ Add Leveraging" button, and circle "8" points to the "Delete" button.

Funds	Source	Type	Source Type	Status	Description
\$100,000	NOAA	Bldg on Others	Other Federal	Proposed	Leveraged NOAA funds will be used to develop a pilot application to demonstrate how the AL SAV Restoration and Monitoring project can be scaled to the entire Gulf Region. This is a NOAA CMAP deliverable.

The Comprehensive Plan update emphasizes the importance of collaboration among the Council members and with other Gulf restoration funding sources and stakeholders. As applicable, describe how

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such collaboration was used to identify, develop, and/or refine the project or program. If applicable, the application should also include a description of the partnerships that will be used to advance the project or program. Sponsors of planning projects that do not have associated Category 2 implementation applications are encouraged to provide information regarding potential implementation funding sources, when such information is available. Leveraged funds can either be described as “Co-funding,” “Adjoining,” or “Builds on Other Resources” (defined below).

1. In order to add a leveraged resource click “**+Add Leveraging**” and a small window will appear. Leveraging opportunities are added one at a time.

The screenshot shows a 'Leveraging' form with the following fields and callouts:

- 2** Funding Amount: Input field containing '20000'.
- 3** Funding Type: Drop-down menu with 'Bldg on Others' selected.
- 4** Source: Input field containing 'NOAA'.
- 5** Source Type: Drop-down menu with 'Other Federal' selected.
- 6** Status: Drop-down menu with 'Proposed' selected.
- 7** Description: Text area containing the text: 'Leveraged NOAA funds will be used to develop a pilot application to demonstrate how the AL SAV Restoration and Monitoring project can be scaled to the entire Gulf Region. This is a NOAA CMAP deliverable.'

At the bottom of the form are two buttons: 'Close' and 'Save changes'.

2. **Funds:**** Enter the total leveraged funding amount for the funding source described below.

Note: Decimal value cannot have more than 2 digits after the decimal.

3. **Type:**** Use the drop-down menu to select the type of leveraging you are describing. The types of funding available are:

Co-funding: Costs will be shared across funding from two or more sources. The leveraged funding from all sources is required in order to achieve the project or program objective. In cases where co-funding is to be used, the commitment of such leveraged resources is required prior to award of Council-Selected Restoration Component funds. There may be an exception to this rule in cases where a project could be scaled down in the event that the anticipated co-funding did not materialize. In such cases, the Council

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would need to consider whether an FPL amendment and/or award amendment would be needed to address the change in project scale;

Adjoining: Activities are proposed in a location that adjoins another existing or proposed project. Geographic proximity is key to this type of leveraging of resources across projects;

Builds on other work: The project builds upon activities completed or ongoing as part of other projects or programs but is not captured by either of the other two types of leveraging.

4. Source:** Indicate the name of the agency/organization providing the leveraging funds.

5. Source Type:** Use the drop-down menu to select the source type for the resources that may be leveraged with your activity.

6. Status:** Use the drop-down menu to select the status of the leveraged funds being described. Options are Proposed (funds that have been proposed and may be provided if the application is awarded), Committed (funds that have been committed to be received for the activity), and Received.

7. Description:** Provide a brief narrative for the leveraging funding you are provided.

Use the light grey square in the bottom right-hand corner of each text box to pull down and expand to desired size for better visibility and ease of writing.

8. You can **edit or delete** any leveraging opportunity after it has been added using the blue and red buttons associated with each leveraging opportunity.

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Environmental Compliance

GeneralGoalsLocationNarrativeEnvironmentalUploadsSubmission

Note: Information entered below will be automatically saved if you navigate forward or backwards in the application. You can also choose to save your entries by selecting "Save" below.

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Environmental Compliance ⓘ

Save Environmental Compliance

In Gulf State, the gathering of SAV seeds in a non-destructive manner is not subject to regulatory requirements. Additionally, this restoration project is considered a Permissible Use under Bliss Bay Coastal Area Management Program. No USACE permit is required for seed gathering or sowing. Seeding plots will be marked in a non-permanent manner using biodegradable natural materials, which will not require USACE permits.

The Department of Interior (DOI) has advised the Council that the SAV restoration and monitoring activities have independent utility and would be covered by DOI National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Categorical Exclusions (CEs) for reintroduction or supplementation of native species and nondestructive data collection. (Though related, the SAV monitoring program is a coast-wide activity that could proceed independent of the SAV restoration activities.) The DOI has advised the Council that the subject CEs cover the subject activities, and that there are no extraordinary circumstances. The Council is using these CEs for these activities, consistent with Section 4(d)(4) of the Council's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Procedures, which enables the Council to use member CEs, where appropriate. Based on information provided by DOI, the Council has also considered potential

931 of 2500 characters remaining

Save Environmental Compliance

Environmental Compliance:** Provide an overview of the Environmental Compliance documentation that will be updated as part of this application. The character limit is for this section 2500, including spaces. **Note:** The Environmental Compliance checklist form located under the “Environmental” tab must be completed as well.

All applications must address environmental compliance and should indicate whether Category 1 or Category 2 status is being sought for the given activity. The environmental compliance checklist available in [Appendix A](#) will be used in the application platform to summarize the status of an application with respect to applicable environmental laws as part of the Environmental section (below). In addition to the checklist, following are instructions for environmental compliance related information that should be included in the submission, depending on the type of project or program.

Planning: As discussed above, no environmental compliance documentation is needed for applications covering only planning activities that do not involve or lead directly to ground disturbing activities that may have significant effects individually or cumulatively, and do not commit the Council or its applicants to a particular course of action affecting the environment. Such applications should include the following statement in the environmental compliance section: “This activity involves only planning actions that are covered by the Council’s NEPA Categorical Exclusion for planning, research or design activities (Section 4(d)(3) of the Council’s NEPA Procedures).”

Environmental Education and Outreach: No environmental compliance documentation is needed for applications covering only outreach, education or related activities that do not involve or lead directly to

** Indicates information that will be pre-populated in PIPER for an FPL application from submitted FPL proposals. This information may need to be updated at the application stage.

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ground-disturbing activities that may have significant effects individually or cumulatively, and do not commit the Council or its applicants to a particular course of action affecting the environment. Such applications should include the following statement in the environmental compliance section: “This activity involves only implementation actions that are covered by the Council’s National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Categorical Exclusion for training, technical assistance, and other related activities (Section 4(d)(1)(vi) of the Council’s NEPA Procedures).”

Implementation Activities with Environmental Impacts: All requests for funding approval for implementation activities that could have environmental impacts must be accompanied by up-to-date documentation of compliance with NEPA, ESA, NHPA, MSA, and FWCA, as applicable. Such documentation must fully cover the potential environmental effects of the activity. The environmental compliance section should describe how environmental compliance is addressed for the activity (e.g., adopt existing NEPA documentation, use a member CE) and confirm that the project or program is fully covered by the associated environmental compliance documentation. All such documentation should be attached to the application (or included via a link to the internet location of the documentation). Use the light grey square in the bottom right-hand corner of each text box to pull down and expand to desired size for better visibility and ease of writing.

Federally-Recognized Tribes

General Goals Location **Narrative** Environmental Uploads Submission

Note: Information entered below will be automatically saved if you navigate forward or backwards in the application. You can also choose to save your entries by selecting "Save" below.

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Methods **1**

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Does this project benefit tribal lands? ⓘ

No ▼

Federally-Recognized Tribes

Select Some Options ▼

Save Federally-Recognized Tribes

Save Federally-Recognized Tribes

** Indicates information that will be pre-populated in PIPER for an FPL application from submitted FPL proposals. This information may need to be updated at the application stage.

1. Is this submitted on behalf of a Federally-recognized Tribe?: Use the drop-down menu to select yes or no. If you selected yes, move on to the next drop-down menu. If you selected no, you have completed this page and can continue to the “Bibliography” tab.

2. Federally Recognized Tribes: Use the drop-down menu to select all Federal Tribes associated with the activity. Multiple tribes may be selected.

Bibliography

GeneralGoalsLocationNarrativeEnvironmentalUploadsSubmission

Note: Information entered below will be automatically saved if you navigate forward or backwards in the application. You can also choose to save your entries by selecting "Save" below.

IntroductionMethodsEnvironmental BenefitsMetricsRiskPublic EngagementLeveragingEnvironmental ComplianceFederally-Recognized TribesBibliography

Bibliography ⓘ

[Kenworthy, W.J., Fonseca, M.S., Whitfield, P.W., Hammerstrom, K.K. and Schwartzschild. 2000. A Comparison of Two Methods for Enhancing the Recovery of Seagrasses into Propeller Scars: Mechanical Injection of a Nutrient and Growth Hormone Solution vs. Defecation by Roosting Seabirds. Final Report Submitted to the Florida Keys Environmental Restoration Trust Fund. Located at <http://shrimp.bea.nmfs.gov/~mfonseca/lvfinalreport.pdf>](#)

U.S. NOAA Coastal Services Center. 2001. Guidance for Benthic Habitat Mapping: An Aerial Photographic Approach by Mark Finkbeiner [and by] Bill Stevenson and Renee Seaman, Technology Planning and Management Corporation, Charleston, SC. (NOAA/CSC/20117-PUB). Located at: <https://coast.noaa.gov/data/digitalcoast/pdf/bhm-guide.pdf>

Vittor and Associates. 2016. SUBMERGED AQUATIC VEGETATION MAPPING IN BLISS BAY AND ADJACENT WATERS OF COASTAL GULF STATE IN 2015. http://www.mobilebaynep.com/images/uploads/library/SAV_2015.pdf

Save BibliographySave Bibliography

Please list all literature cited in the application, and please provide the appropriate links where available. There is no character limit.

Use the light grey square in the bottom right-hand corner of each text box to pull down and expand to desired size for better visibility and ease of writing.

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Environmental Compliance Documentation

General	Goals	Location	Narrative	Environmental	Uploads	Submission
Environmental Compliance Documentation ⓘ			Has Requirement Been Addressed?			
National Environmental Policy Act			<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> N/A			<input type="button" value="Upload"/>
						Max Upload file size: 15 Mb
Notes						
<input type="text" value="https://www.restorethegulf.gov/sites/default/files/FPL_EClib_AL_%20SAV_Program_CE_signed.pdf"/>						
Endangered Species Act			<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> N/A			<input type="button" value="Upload"/>
						Max Upload file size: 15 Mb
Notes						
<input type="text"/>						
National Historic Preservation Act			<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> N/A			<input type="button" value="Upload"/>
						Max Upload file size: 15 Mb
Notes						
<input type="text"/>						
Mangnuson-Stevens Act			<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> N/A			<input type="button" value="Upload"/>

1. Environmental Compliance Documentation: The environmental compliance checklist shown in [Appendix A](#) summarizes the status of the application with respect to applicable environmental laws. All requests for FPL Category 1 funding approval for implementation activities that could have environmental impacts must be accompanied by up-to-date documentation of compliance with NEPA, ESA, NHPA, MSA, and FWCA, as applicable. If additional laws than those listed apply, please indicate in the Environmental Compliance section of the “Narrative” tab, and provide documentation under the “Uploads” tab.

2. For each law listed on this page: Indicate whether the requirement has been addressed (or if it is not applicable to your activity). Use the “Upload” button to add a file with up-to-date documentation of compliance with NEPA, ESA, NHPA, MSA, and FWCA, as applicable. If “Yes” or “No” was selected for a law, a note is required in the text box to further explain your compliance (or lack thereof) and

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documentation. After uploading documentation, you may add any additional notes in the text box below the law you are dealing with.

For more details regarding environmental compliance please refer to the Environmental Compliance section above.

Use the light grey square in the bottom right-hand corner of each text box to pull down and expand to desired size for better visibility and ease of writing.

Use the green save button at the bottom of the page to **save your progress and continue.**

** Indicates information that will be pre-populated in PIPER for an FPL application from submitted FPL proposals. This information may need to be updated at the application stage.

Uploads

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+ Add file

1

Document Uploads

- Accepted Document Types include: DOC, DOCX, and PDF
- Letters of Support should be combined into one (1) PDF document
- Max Upload file size: 15 Mb (per file)
- (Max 5 Documents)

File Name	Type
No data available in table	

Maps, Figures, and Charts

- Accepted Document Types include: JPEG and PNG
- Must provide a caption for each artifact uploaded
- Max Upload file size: 15 Mb (per file)
- (Max: 3 Maps, 4 Figures, 3 Charts)

File Name	Caption
map.jpg	Map of Bliss Bay, Gulf State.

Tables

- Accepted Document Types include: DOC, DOCX, and PDF
- Must include a caption description
- Max Upload file size: 15 Mb (per file)
- (Max 1 Document)

File Name	Caption
No data available in table	

GIS Information

Note: Note: GIS files may require approximately 10 minutes to successfully upload to the PIPER server. GIS files will show as "pending" on the Submission review tab until files have been successfully uploaded..

File Name	
No data available in table	

Submission Review

Note: at least one map is required to meet minimum upload requirements

1. Add File: To upload a file to any of the sections listed below, click the green “+Add file” button at the top of the page. This will lead you to a drop-down menu to select the section your upload applies to.

** Indicates information that will be pre-populated in PIPER for an FPL application from submitted FPL proposals. This information may need to be updated at the application stage.

Add a New File

Section
 Maps ▼ Allowed extensions are: JPEG,JPG,PNG

File to Upload
 Choose File map.jpg

Caption
 Map of Bliss Bay, Gulf State.

Save Cancel

After selecting the section your file applies to, click “choose file” to upload it. Some upload types will allow you to use a text box to create a label or caption. When providing a caption, make it as descriptive of the uploaded file as possible.

Click the green **save** button when you are done uploading each file you wish to add.

Main Uploads:

- Accepted Document Types include: DOC, DOCX, and PDF
- Observational Data Plan (ODP). Additional guidance is available [here](#).
- Data Management Plan (DMP). Additional guidance is available [here](#).
- Max Upload file size: 15 Mb (per file)
- (Max 5 Documents)

NOTE: “Observational Data Plan” and “Data Management Plan” files must be uploaded with an application for valid application submission.

Maps, Figures, and Charts:

- Accepted Document Types include: JPEG and PDF
- Must provide a caption for each artifact uploaded
- Max Upload file size: 15 Mb (per file)
- (Max: 3 Maps, 4 Figures, 3 Charts)

NOTE: At least one map must be included with your application for valid submission.

Tables:

****** Indicates information that will be pre-populated in PIPER for an FPL application from submitted FPL proposals. This information may need to be updated at the application stage.

- Accepted Document Types include: DOC, DOCX, and PDF
- Must include a caption description
- Max Upload file size: 15 Mb (per file)
- (Max 1 Document)

GIS Information:** As part of the application, GIS data needs to be provided along with ISO metadata that describes the project location using either points, lines, or polygons. GIS data uploaded must be in the template format. The downloadable GIS Template to upload is located under the “Help” tab at the top of your webpage. Required attributes in the GIS data tables include application title, component name, and GIS contact. Please be aware that your GIS file should only include geometries you have data for. If you only have a polygon, please delete the point and line feature classes from your GIS file before zipping and uploading.

For additional information on GIS files, please contact Michelle Fischer (michelle.fischer@restorethegulf.gov).

NOTE: Uploaded GIS data validation compares your uploaded GIS file to the GIS template and can take up to 10 minutes. If your “pre-submit” validation is failing on the uploaded GIS data file, please try to re-validate in a few minutes.

General Goals Location Narrative Environmental **Uploads** Submission

+ Add file Edit file Delete file Download file

2 3 4

Main Uploads

- Accepted Document Types include: DOC, DOCX, and PDF
- Letters of Support should be combined into one (1) PDF document
- Max Upload file size: 15 Mb (per file)
- (Max 5 Documents)

File Name	Type
No data available in table	

Maps, Figures, and Charts

- Accepted Document Types include: JPEG and PNG
- Must provide a caption for each artifact uploaded
- Max Upload file size: 15 Mb (per file)
- (Max: 3 Maps, 4 Figures, 3 Charts)

File Name	Caption
map.jpg	Map of Bliss Bay, Gulf State.

** Indicates information that will be pre-populated in PIPER for an FPL application from submitted FPL proposals. This information may need to be updated at the application stage.

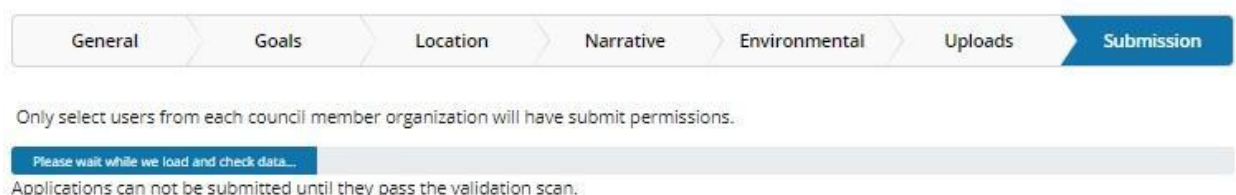
2. To **edit** an uploaded file, select the file you wish to edit and scroll to the top of the page. Several blue buttons will appear next to “+Add file”. Select the blue “Edit file” button. This will return you to the page used to add the file. You can change the file type using the drop-down menu, replace the existing file, and change your caption using this page. When you are done click **save**.

3. To **delete** an uploaded file, select the file you wish to edit and scroll to the top of the page. Several blue buttons will appear next to “+Add file”. Select the blue “Delete file” button.

4. To **download** an uploaded file, select the file you wish to edit and scroll to the top of the page. Several blue buttons will appear next to “+Add file”. Select the blue “Download file” button. This will result in a new window popping up, where you can save your file in the location of your choice.

5. Click the green **Submission Review** button or continue to the Submission tab to begin the submission process.

Submission



After clicking on the submission tab (or the Submission Review button), a validation scan of the information included in your application submission will begin. Applications cannot be submitted until they pass the validation scan. When the scan is complete, a red highlight will indicate which fields under each section need attention. You may click on the red highlighted text to jump to the section of the application that needs review. If everything is completed correctly, your application will be submitted for review.

Note: Only select users from each Council member organization will have the ability to submit an application. If you believe you should have “Submitting” privileges, and are not able to “Submit” your application, please reach out to helpdesk@restorethegulf.gov.

** Indicates information that will be pre-populated in PIPER for an FPL application from submitted FPL proposals. This information may need to be updated at the application stage.

General
Goals
Location
Narrative
Environmental
Uploads
Submission

Only select users from each council member organization will have submit permissions.

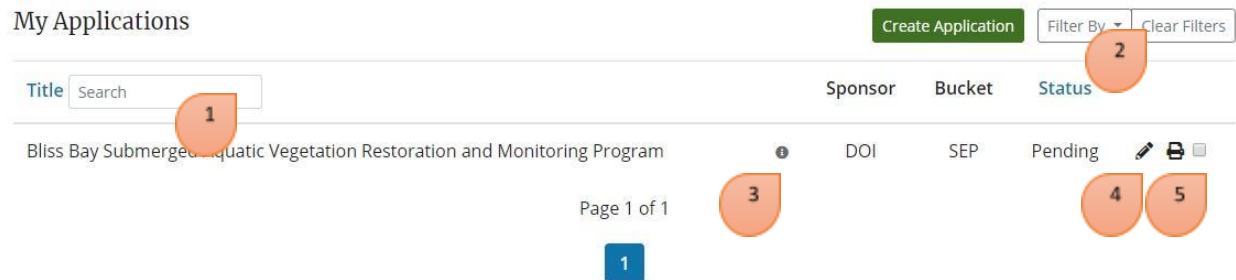
Validation scan complete.

Application did not pass validation scan. Please make adjustments to the fields highlighted below.

General	Status
Title	✓
Abstract	✓
Activity Type	✓
Program	✓
Is this a construction project?	✓
RESTORE Act Priority Criteria	✓
Goals	Status
Project Start Date	✓
Project End Date	✓
Primary Comprehensive Plan Goal	✓
Primary Comprehensive Plan Objective	✓
Planning Framework Restoration Technique(s)	✓
Location	Status
Location	✓
Watershed(s)	✓
State(s)	✓
County/Parish(es)	✓
Congressional District(s)	✓

Viewing Applications

Applications



Select the application tab at the top of the webpage. This will present you with two options: View Applications and Create Application. Click “View Applications” to view or edit your application(s).

1. Search: You can search your applications by title using the search box next to “Title”.

2. Filters: You can filter the applications you see by “My Applications” “Associated Applications” and “All Applications”. You can also filter by application Title (alphabetical order), Sponsor, or Status by clicking on the respective blue words. To clear filters, click the “Clear Filters” button.

3. Application Details: Clicking the grey “i” icon next to an application will lead a small window to appear, where you can view the abstract of the application, along with creator/editor information.

4. Edit: Select the pencil icon next to the application you want to edit. This will bring you to the application editor. If you need assistance with anything within the application editor, look for the corresponding section within the “Create Application” portion of this manual.

5. Print: Select the printer icon next to the application you want to print. This will create a downloadable Word document file of your application.

Resubmitting an Application in PIPER

- 1) Access the application from the PIPER Application Landing Page by clicking on the "Eye" icon.
- 2) The following screen should appear showing different areas of the application record. At the top of the screen above where it says "General", "Goals", "Narrative" and "Submission" are toggle buttons that say "Programs", "GIS" and "Data"
- 3) To upload new ODP and DMP files, toggle the "Data" button which will reveal the screenshot below.
- 4) Now, click where it says "Uploads" and you will be taken to a screen that allows you to upload ODP and DMP files. As shown below. Select the appropriate "Tag" label (Observational Data Plan or Data Management Plan) and select "Browse." This will allow you to search for the file you would like to upload.

Appendix A: *Environmental Compliance Checklist*

The environmental compliance checklist below will be completed electronically in PIPER. All requests for funding approval for implementation activities that could have environmental impacts must be accompanied by up-to-date documentation of compliance with NEPA, ESA, NHPA, MSA, and FWCA, as applicable. For each law listed on this page: Indicate whether the requirement has been addressed (or if it is not applicable to your activity). In PIPER you will use the “Upload” button to add a file with up-to-date documentation of compliance with NEPA, ESA, NHPA, MSA, and FWCA, as applicable. If “Yes” or “No” was selected for a law, a note is required in the text box to further explain your compliance (or lack thereof) and documentation. After uploading documentation, you may add any additional notes below each law.

Planning, Environmental Education and Outreach: *For Council-Selected Restoration Component activities that involve only planning, outreach and/or environmental education (with no approval of implementation funding), the sponsor should check “Yes” for the National Environmental Policy Act and write “Council NEPA Categorical Exclusion” in the notes section. The sponsor should check “N/A” for the other laws listed below. While these laws may apply at the implementation phase of the activity, they generally do not apply to planning, education or outreach phase, with limited exceptions. There may be instances where a component of a planning activity does trigger one or more laws. For example, geotechnical sampling in wetlands (performed to guide engineering and design) could require authorization under Clean Water Act Section 404. If your planning activity may involve geotechnical sampling in wetlands, please indicate whether that law has been addressed.*

Environmental Requirement	Has the Requirement Been Addressed?	Compliance Notes and documentation uploads (e.g., title and date of document, permit number, weblink etc.) ¹
National Environmental Policy Act	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Endangered Species Act	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
National Historic Preservation Act	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Magnuson-Stevens Act	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Coastal Zone Management Act	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Coastal Barrier Resources Act	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Farmland Protection Policy Act	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Clean Water Act Section 404	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
River and Harbors Act Section 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Clean Water Act Section 401	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Marine Mammal Protection Act	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
National Marine Sanctuaries Act	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Migratory Bird Treaty Act	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Clean Air Act	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Other application environmental laws or regulations	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	

¹ Note: PIPER will allow for EC documentation uploads under each environmental requirement shown in the checklist.